Grande Prairie Herald

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MRS. MARY THOMPSON CREATED PLACE OF BEAUTY ON BEAR LAKE.

In early March of 1910, over the difficult Athabasca-Slave Lake-Sturgeon Lake Trail, beset with hardships which made men quail at times, there came to the Grande Prairie district a fine old English mother and her seven children.

Mrs. Thompson was born in Jersey on the Channel Island on May 27th, 1853. At an early age she married William Thompson and they established their home at Timperly, Cheshire, England. In June of 1907, Mr. Thompson passed on leaving a family of seven.

In the summer of 1908 the family came to Canada, locating in Edmonton. The Call of the Peace became too strong to resist so in February, 1910, they set out for their new northern home.

To say that Mrs. Thompson and her children established a home in the new northland fails to express the feelings of those who have enjoyed the privilege of visiting that beautiful home on the eastern shores of Bear Lake. During the lifetime of Mrs. Thompson it was the outstanding beauty spot of the whole north country. Sending home to her native land for fruit and shade trees, for shrubs and flowers, with which the homesite was quickly converted into a vertiable showplace. The old home still stands, facing the setting sun across Bear Lake, but in recent years the beautiful garden has be-

come a ghost of the thing of beauty it was in the time of its creator.

Mrs. Thompson was summoned to her Heavenly home on June 1st, 1928.

Of the family three still reside here, Mrs. A.E.W. Roberts, Mrs. William Grant and Fred H. Thompson. Miss May Thompson and Mrs. C.J. Mead reside in England, John Thompson in California. Richard Thompson was accidentally drowned in Lake Saskatoon about fourteen years ago.